



Light Lines

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New Stream Rehabilitation Projects By John Kendell

Credit River, Bronte and 16 Mile Creeks!

CRAA is planning to undertake our next major rehabilitation project, expanding our major rehabilitation works to include the western GTA rivers that we adopted back in 1999. The project will exceed one million dollars in value if all the funding comes through, spread over the next three years. It could become even larger if enough financial and in kind support becomes available.

Back in 2005 and 2006 CRAA partnered with Halton Region Conservation Authority to apply for Trillium Foundation funding to complete a monitoring project on 16 Mile Creek. In that time further research was done on Bronte Creek and the Credit River. In 2007 we began contacting land owners and started planning our work for the 2008 to 2010 period.

Under this new rehabilitation project CRAA intends to plant 21,000 trees per year for a total of 63,000 over the three year project. Much of this does rely on a new Ontario Trillium Foundation grant we recently applied for.

Lets hope the funding is approved. 16 Mile Creek needs a huge helping hand from CRAA and others. Much of Bronte and the Credit have been rehabilitated, however we still have many sites to fill in.



Tree planting will be done all over the three watersheds. We have sites planned from the lower portion of each river all the way to headwater tributaries. Our Earth Day tree planting will be held in Mississauga. Please see the list of volunteer events on page 3.

Another exciting component of the new project is targeting the removal or mitigation of small dams and ponds. While it is difficult to believe, a 1 acre pond can literally kill a small trout stream. On line ponds can warm cold water streams up to 10 C which turns a trout stream into a hot water stream trout cannot live in. Secondly, on line ponds prevent fish from migrating or mixing. This can prevent access to spawning water or prevent genetic mixing of the population.

We have 15 sites selected on the Credit watershed and 3 on 16 Mile Creek thus far. We have another 100

plus sites to contact land owners on 16 Mile Creek in the coming years. Other related projects will be building rocky ramps at small dams and culverts where small fish cannot pass up stream. This is vital for young trout, redbreast dace and all minnow species. In hot weather a ramp will allow the small fish to migrate upstream to cooler water and survive in much higher numbers. In cases of brook trout it will allow access to spawning areas to grow the population.

CRAA will be operating the Streetsville fish ladder again this spring. 2008 marks CRAA's 19th year lifting steelhead at the Streetsville Dam. Where has the time gone? We will be transferring steelhead again and hope to break our record set for wild adult transfers in 2007 at 750 fish.

CRAA has retained engineers to complete the Norval Dam fish ladder construction design and the migratory fish barrier. If enough funding comes through in 2008 we hope to see both projects move to the construction phase.

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Join CRAA today.

Membership is only \$10.00 per year!

Sportsmen's Show Special

New members at the Sportsmen show will receive \$10.00 worth of trout fishing material (spawn net and more).

Be part of the action! Give a little back to the rivers you love.



Credit River Anglers Association
Light Lines

Contributions are welcome
from all members and non-
members alike.

Send you articles of interest,
messages or suggestions to:

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News and Announcements

Highlights within CRAA!



CRAA Membership Corner:

Some major changes to the CRAA membership were just approved by the CRAA executive team. Given costs have declined for newsletters now that they are sent in pdf form via e-mail we have lowered the price of a CRAA membership to \$10.00 per year effective March 1, 2008. For the price of a couple cups of coffee you can now join one of the most active conservation groups in Ontario and make your voice heard. Past members will be given a 1 year free membership extension to reflect the new membership rate.

CRAA 2008 Crew—Send in your resume

CRAA plans to hire a crew of 6 seasonal staff for the planting crew if our funding applications are approved. CRAA is also hiring ten— 7 week full time positions for the summer to operate the Port Credit launch ramp and weigh station. 6 G R P R \$\$ -mail address. Planting crew positions start in May and continue to September (November for crew leader).

Norval Fish Ladder and Migratory Barrier

CRAA is working closely with the land owner of the Norval Dam and with MNR to build a new fish ladder at the Norval Dam. The old fish ladder has not functioned since the 1980's and steelhead, brown trout and Atlantic salmon cannot pass the dam without a new fish ladder. CRAA has hired an engineering firm to develop a plan and prepare final drawings for permitting and tender.

CRAA and the MNR are partners in the Environmental Assessment process to build the migratory fish barrier. Engineers have been hired to determine the best location and barrier type. Once built this barrier will segregate lake and resident fish. It will also mean steelhead can finally access the middle river and spawn in the prime waters above Norval. The future is very bright for trout fishing on the Credit River!

President's Update

John Kendell



I can't believe spring is just around the corner. I and other CRAA volunteers are busy, organizing events, planning projects, working with the MNR or other agencies. All to make sure we have a highly productive spring, lifting fish, planting trees and improving the rivers we love.

For the hundreds of volunteers over the past few years I say thanks for your continued efforts. And to the many more potential volunteers, come on out and roll up your sleeves. Bring the family. After a morning planting trees you will feel the reward. And years later you will see your trees growing and know you have made this place better!

As CRAA expands our work to other rivers and working with other groups I look forward to the future. Never before have so many anglers and conservationists come together to help our rivers and environment. And better fishing is just one of the many positive outcomes. Tight lines and I'll see you at an upcoming event.

Volunteer Events for Spring 2008

- March-April** Fish Ladder. CRAA volunteers will lift steelhead at the Streetsville Dam. Bring waders and extra clothes. All welcome. Lifts start at 5 PM nightly. No lifts in weather below 5 C.
- April 20** **EARTH DAY** Tree planting at Credit River and Creditview Road, just south of highway 401. Planting from 9 am to 1 pm.
- April 26** Streetsville Park, with Sierra Club, CVC and Mississauga Parks. 9 am to noon. Just east of Mississauga Road, south of Main Street.
- May 3** CRAA Steelhead Tournament. Thousands in prizes, limited spaces. Sign up before April 15!

Please visit the CRAA website for full details on these and other CRAA events at www.craa.on.ca.

2007 Rogers Creek highlight!

Rogers Creek work was one of our most exciting stream rehabilitation projects ongoing in 2007. We were working with MNR, Ontario Streams, CVC and OFAH to remove a huge on line pond. CRAA and CVC also continued removing logs at the 2.3 m Graydon dam (shown right) and bottom drawing three other off line ponds. Work was completed in October and Rogers Creek has changed from a warm water tributary to a cold water stream! Work this year will include tree planting, removal of the last stop logs at the Graydon dam and examining two other small dams on the stream above our work site. I started this project in 1998 but it stalled with a land owner. In 2005 when the property sold another land owner got the momentum started and with a team of groups and agencies the work is done.

Rogers Creek is a medium sized tributary in Terra Cotta that until recently dumped water exceeding 30C into the Credit River. In summer 2008 and onwards it should be pouring cold water in the low 20's, not only creating niche habitat for local trout, but new spawning and juvenile trout habitat!



A 2.3 m dam removed over 3 years from Rogers Creek by CRAA, CVC and MNR.



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CRAA at Queen's Park

By Louis Milo

Last summer CRAA was asked to provide input on the Ministry of Natural Resources fish and wildlife funding crisis by the political parties in Ontario. Over the past 18 months John and I attended monthly meetings with various elected officials and their aids and I presented on the Biodiversity Legislation to Queens Park. The PC party liked our recommendations so much they included many of them in their election platform. Many of these policy pieces were recently echoed in the Auditor General's report so hopefully we can see some progress on OMNR capacity restoration in the coming year.

Fast forward a few months and I had the pleasure of sitting with the new MNR Minister, the Hon Donna Cansfield and her policy advisors. I found her candor and willingness to engage CRAA refreshing and after working with her policy advisors I believe that CRAA is now helping to steer the OMNR towards a brighter future.

Many ask why does a conservation group need to be at Queens Park or Ferguson Block lobbying the political leaders of the province. There are many occasions where the core's of conservation work become flat lined by under funding, a lack of interest and a Ministry that wishes to work on the landscape. This is where we need to ensure that the politicians of the province have conservation and remediation in the forefront of their agenda's. That work done by CRAA and others is understood and embraced by all, but foremost that CRAA is at the front of each and every member's list of groups to engage with on Conservation work in the Province.

The OMNR is in deep trouble in regards to its ability to continue rendering services and it needs much greater funding from provincial tax coffers and other revenue streams in order to restore capacity. I hope this is a theme that is picked up by other conservation groups, lobbyists and the stakeholders of this province so that one message can be sent; we want the OMNR back to its glory and we want better fishing opportunities.

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Membership Information

Are you concerned about the future health of the beautiful Credit River and Bronte Creek watersheds including all their tributaries? Do you enjoy fishing, hiking and other activities in the valleys? Do you want a cleaner river, better fishing and a cleaner environment for the future? Then you should join CRAA NOW. CRAA's address is on page 2.

Membership Fees: **1 year \$10.00** **3 years \$30.00**
(Please enclose cheque payable to CRAA)

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ Postal Code _____

Tel (Res) : _____ Tel (Bus) : _____

E-mail Address : _____

Yes! I want to volunteer for: _____